# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION

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TERESA WATTS	·	Case No.		, je se s	<b>U</b> O	
725 Sanders Drive	UMT:					
Hamilton, Ohio 45013,	And 3. K. A	Judge			<del></del>	
	Mag.	W	EBER TE			
Plaintiff,	JOHIDA					
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Defendant.				·*	·\)	
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Now comes Teresa Watts, who for her Complaint against United Parcel Service, states as follows:

#### I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. This is a civil rights action brought by Plaintiff Teresa Watts, alleging that Defendant, United Parcel Service, discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of gender, disability and/or the perception thereof and retaliated against her for engaging in protected activity. Relief sought by Plaintiff includes monetary relief for economic and non-economic damages, equitable relief, punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees.
- 2. This action arises under 42 U.S.C § 2000e-2, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 12112, the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), O.R.C. §§ 4112.02 and 4112.99, and the common law of Ohio regarding unlawful discrimination in employment.

### II. JURISDICTION

- 3. This Court's jurisdiction over this action is based on 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Jurisdiction of this Court is also invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1367, which provides supplemental jurisdiction for Plaintiff's claims under the Ohio Civil Rights Act (O.R.C. § 4112.02), and the common law of Ohio regarding unlawful discrimination. Plaintiff's state law claims derive from the same nucleus of operative facts as the Plaintiff's federal claims.
- 4. Venue with this Court is appropriate because all of the actions complained of herein occurred within the Southern District of Ohio.

#### III. ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

- 5. On or about March 6, 2003, Plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination (Charge No. 221A300415) with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), alleging ongoing employment discrimination on the basis of disability and/or gender. A copy of said Charge is attached as Exhibit A.
- 6. On or about May 23, 2003, Plaintiff received her Right to Sue Notice from the EEOC.

  A copy of said Notice is attached as Exhibit B.
- 7. On or about July 9, 2003, Plaintiff filed a second Charge of Discrimination with the EEOC, alleging ongoing gender discrimination and retaliation. A copy of said Charge is attached as Exhibit C. Plaintiff is awaiting a Right to Sue Notice with respect to this charge.

#### IV. PARTIES

8. Plaintiff, Teresa Watts, is a female citizen of the United States. Ms. Watts has been employed by Defendant United Parcel Service since 1990 at its Hamilton, Ohio facility.

9. Defendant, United Parcel Service ("UPS"), the world's largest package delivery company, operates a local service facility in Hamilton, Ohio. UPS employs more than 300 employees.

#### V. STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

- 10. Plaintiff sustained an injury in the course of her employment on or about June 29, 2000. As a result of said injury, Plaintiff has been diagnosed with herniated discs in her back. Plaintiff has also been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease. Plaintiff's claim for workers' compensation benefits as a result of her injury was allowed.
- 11. Plaintiff's condition is permanent or expected to persist, at a minimum, for more than a few months. Defendant has at all relevant times been aware of Ms. Watts's injury and diagnosis. Upon sustaining the injury, Ms. Watts informed Defendant and received temporary total disability payments. Further, Ms. Watts has provided Defendant with multiple medical releases concerning her injury and diagnosis.
- 12. As a result of her diagnosis, Ms. Watts has a disability or a history or record of impairment within the meaning of 42 U.S.C.§12102(2) and as provided in 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(h), and Plaintiff is regarded as disabled by Defendant.
- 13. Under the policies, practices and procedures in effect at all times material hereto, UPS employees injured in the course of duty are entitled to return to work when fit for duty. Consistent with this right, the applicable collective bargaining agreement provides a procedure for determining an injured employee's fitness for duty.

- 14. Defendant has a policy and practice of providing injured employees who are unable to return to their full duties with "Temporary Alternative Work" (TAW) to enable them to return to work on a light duty basis.
- 15. Beginning in or around early November, 2002, Plaintiff provided Defendant with several releases authorizing her to return to work subject to various limitations. In each instance, the limitations were such that Plaintiff could have returned to work on TAW. Despite the availability of TAW, Defendant refused to return Plaintiff to work on any basis.
- 16. Thereafter, on or about December 4, 2002, Ms. Watts was examined by a doctor, and obtained another medical release to return to work. In this release, the doctor identified by Defendant recommended that Plaintiff could return to work on light duty for a limited period of time, and thereafter, to full duty. As before, Defendant refused to accommodate Ms. Watts's temporary work restrictions with the TAW afforded other employees and denied her request to return to work.
- 17. On or about January 14, 2003, Ms. Watts provided Defendant a fourth medical release, again from the doctor identified by Defendant. Under its terms, Ms. Watts was released to work without any physical restrictions. Specifically, Ms. Watts was released to perform light duty work for thirty (30) days, at which time she would receive a full medical release contingent upon physical improvement. Despite receipt of the fourth medical release, Defendant refused to allow Ms. Watts to return to work.
- 18. At all of the above times, Defendant had TAW available for Plaintiff. Defendant's decision to deny Plaintiff the opportunity to return to work on TAW or otherwise was inconsistent with the manner in which it treated other employees who were not female or who were not disabled or regarded as disabled.

- 19. On or about January 16, 2003, Ms. Watts's supervisor indicated that Defendant refused to return Plaintiff because it felt that Ms. Watts, because of her actual or perceived disability, would perform TAW briefly and then return to medical leave. Plaintiff's supervisor additionally stated that he could not afford to bring Ms. Watts back to work and would not allow her to work until she had a full work release without any restrictions. As reflected by the statements of Plaintiff's supervisor, Defendant's refusal to provide Plaintiff with TAW on the same terms as other employees was based upon Defendant's perception that Ms. Watts had a disability or impairment within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §12102(2).
- 20. On or about March 7, 2003, Ms. Watts submitted a Request for Accommodation to Defendant pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12112, the ADA. At Defendant's request on May 14, 2003, Ms. Watts obtained a fifth medical release form to accompany the Request. In this release, a physician authorized Ms. Watts to perform TAW for thirty (30) days. After that time, she would be released to work full duty. Defendant did not respond to Ms. Watts' properly supported request until four months later when, on July 23, 2003, Ms. Watts received notice from Defendant that her Request had been denied.
- 21. Defendant routinely grants TAW to male employees and/or employees without a disability or a history or record of impairment within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. §12102(2) who are not perceived as disabled. Such employees are granted multiple periods of TAW and extensions of TAW when needed and/or requested. Such employees who requested TAW after Ms. Watts submitted her requests for TAW have been given TAW assignments. Defendant's claim that it did not have any TAW for Ms. Watts is untrue.

22. Defendant has retaliated against Ms. Watts for engaging in protected activity, (i.e., seeking an accommodation, filing an EEOC Charge, and raising concerns about and objecting to her treatment). Among other things, Defendant inappropriately and inconsistently required Ms. Watts to allow a nurse designated or employed by Defendant to schedule appointments for and accompany Ms. Watts to medical appointments, and Defendant required Ms. Watts to be examined by a psychologist to discuss the possibility of her not being allowed to return to work and her potential career options.

- 23. Upon information and belief, male employees of Defendant seeking to obtain TAW and return to work are not required to accept the services of a nurse or undergo a psychologist's assessment and career counseling.
- 24. Upon information and belief, employees of Defendant without an actual or perceived disability or a history or record of impairment within the meaning of 42 U.S.C.§12102(2) seeking to obtain TAW and return to work, are not required to accept the services of a nurse or undergo a psychologist's assessment and career counseling.
- 25. The decision to deny Ms. Watts TAW which would allow her to return to employment with Defendant was based upon Ms. Watts's gender. Alternatively, said decision was motivated by Ms. Watt's disability and/or the perception or record thereof.
- 26. Defendant retaliated against Ms. Watts by requiring her to use medical and psychological help, by intentionally delaying and denying Ms. Watts's accommodation request, and in other ways. Defendant's retaliation was in response to Ms. Watts's protected activity.
- 27. As a direct and proximate result of the intentional and unlawful acts of Defendant, Ms. Watts has suffered economic damages in the form of back pay and lost employment benefits,

including health insurance and non-economic damages in the form of physical and emotional pain and suffering and damage to her professional reputation.

# **COUNT ONE**

- 28. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one through twenty-seven as if written herein.
- 29. The actions of Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights as secured by 42 U.S.C. § 12112, the ADA, to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability, or the history or perception thereof, in the terms, conditions of, and opportunities for employment.

# **COUNT TWO**

- 30. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one through twenty-nine as if written herein.
- 31. The actions of Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights as secured by 42 U.S.C § 2000e-2, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to be free from discrimination on the basis of gender in the terms, conditions of, and opportunities for employment.

#### **COUNT THREE**

- 32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one through thirty-one as if written herein.
- 33. The actions of Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights as secured by O.R.C. § 4112.02, et seq., to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability in the terms, conditions of, and opportunities for employment.

# **COUNT FOUR**

- 34. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one through thirty-three as if written herein.
- 35. The actions of Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights as secured by O.R.C. § 4112.02, to be free from discrimination on the basis of gender in the terms, conditions of, and opportunities for employment.

# **COUNT FIVE**

- 36. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one through thirty-five as if written herein.
- 37. The actions of Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights as secured by 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-3, O.R.C. § 4112.99, and 42 U.S.C. §12203 to be free from acts of retaliation for opposition to, or participation in proceedings opposing, acts of discrimination.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Teresa Watts, demands judgment against Defendant, United Parcel Service, as follows:

- 1. A judgment for compensatory damages for Plaintiff's economic damages as well as non-economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
  - 2. An award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
  - 3. An award of Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 4. A judgment for such other relief in law or equity to which Plaintiff is entitled under the premises; and
  - 5. A judgment for the reinstatement of Plaintiff to her previous employment position.

Respectfully submitted,

SIRKIN, PINALES, MEZIBOV & SCHWARTZ LLP

MARC D. MEZIBOV (Ohio Bar No. 0019316) CHRISTIAN A. JENKINS (Ohio Bar No. 0070674) SUSAN E. BRABENEC (Ohio Bar No. 0075200) 105 W. Fourth Street, Suite 920 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Telephone (513) 721-4876 Telecopier (513) 721-0876

Counsel for Plaintiff, Teresa Watts

#### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands that all issues of fact pursuant to the foregoing Complaint be tried to a jury.

Respectfully submitted,

SIRKIN, PINALES, MEZIBOV & SCHWARTZ LLP

MARC D. MEZIBOV (Ohio Bar No. 0019316) CHRISTIAN A. JENKINS (Ohio Bar No. 0070674) SUSAN E. BRABENEC (Ohio Bar No. 0075200) 105 W. Fourth Street, Suite 920 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Telephone (513) 721-4876 Telecopier (513) 721-0876

Counsel for Plaintiff, Teresa Watts

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rocessing of my charge in accordance with their procedures.  [ declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.    Signature of complainant   Signature of comp					
,	Joseph Y	Carre -			
Jens J. Watte	SUBSCRIBED AND SW (Month, day and year)	Thomas M. A	THIS DATE		
ate 3-4-03 Charging Party (Signature)	3-4-2003	NANCY G. SIN			

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# U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

# DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To:Teresa L. Watts

From: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

	725 Sanders Drive Hamilton, Ohio 45013	550 Main Stree Cincinnati, Oh	et, Suite 10-019 io 45202
f 3	On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR § 1601.7(a))		
e No.	EEOC	Representative	Telephone No.
300415	Legal	Unit Duty Officer	(216) 522-7455
EEOC	IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARC	SE FOR THE FOLLOWING RI	EASON:
[ ]	The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a	claim under any of the statutes enf	forced by the EEOC.
[ ]	Your allegations did not involve a disability	that is covered by the Americans v	with Disabilities Act.
·[ ]	The Respondent employs less than the require	red number of employees or is not	otherwise covered by the statues.
[ ]	We cannot investigate your charge because i	t was not filed within the time limi	it required by law.
[ ]	Having been given 30 days in which to r interviews/conferences, or otherwise failed to	espond, you failed to provide ir o cooperate to the extent that it wa	nformation, failed to appear or be available for snot possible to resolve your charge.
[ ]	While reasonable efforts were made to locate	you, we were not able to do so.	
[ ]	You had 30 days to accept a reasonable settle	ement offer that afford full relief fo	or the harm you alleged.
[ X]	The EEOC issues the following determination obtained establishes violations of the statute finding is made as to any other issues that must be The EEOC has adopted the findings of the statute.	s. This does not certify that the reight be construed as having been ra	•
[ ]	Other (briefly state)		
	(See the addi	FICE OF SUIT RIGHTS - itional information attached to this form	
of your i	right to sue that we will send you. You ma	y file a lawsuit against the respon-	ment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal indent(s) under federal law based on this charge of this Notice; otherwise, your right to sue based ent.)
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osurc(s)	Wels	behalf of the Commission  May away  na L. Javey, Area Director	5/23/2003 (Date/Mailed)
1951	Colb d Parcel Scrvice Logan Avcnuc Iton, Ohio 45011		EXHIBIT

I. On March 6, 2003, I filed Case No. 221A300415 with the EEOC, charging that United Parcel Service ("UPS"), discriminated against me on the bases of my gender and disability. On March 7, 2003, I mailed to UPS a Request for Accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).  II. On March 11, 2003, UPS responded to my March 7th request by providing medical forms to be completed by my physician. I secured a physician's appointment on May 14, 2003 and returned the completed medical forms to UPS on May 15, 2003. In the submitted medical forms, my physician wrote that I should perform light duty work for thirty (30) days and then would be relased to work full duty contingent upon my physical improvement.  III. I received no communication from UPS regarding my Request for the next thirty-eight (38) days. On June 23, 2003, I received a voice-mail message from David Holzknecht regarding my request. Mr. Holzknecht stated that the UPS Cincinnati committee considering my request had reached a recommendation which was being forwarded to the UPS Chicago office for acceptance.	CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974; See Privacy Statement before completing this form.	AGENCY FEPA EEOC	CHARGE NUMBER 221-2003-01360			
MS. Teresa L. Watts  STREET ADDRESS  CITY. STATE AND ZIP CODE  COUNTY  APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHO DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ME (if more than one list below.)  NAME  United Parcel Service  Cat. D (501+)  STREET ADDRESS  CITY. STATE AND ZIP CODE  CAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION BASED DN (Check appropriate basicae)  RAME  CAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION BASED DN (Check appropriate basicae)  Race  Color  Race  Color  Sex  Religion  National  Origin  Retaliation  Age  Disability  Other (Specify)  DATE DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE  carther (ADRAEPA)  LATESTIALL)  05/15/03  Countinuing Action  THE PARTICULARS ARE  (if additional space is needed, such care mentic(ii)):  I. On March 6, 2003, I filled Case No. 221A300415 with the EEOC, charging that United Parcel Service  ("UPS"), discriminated against me on the bases of my gender and disability. On March 7, 2003, I mailed to  UPS a Request for Accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).  II. On March 11, 2003, UPS responded to my March 7th request by providing medical forms to be completed by my physician. I secured a physician's appointment on May 14, 2003 and returned the completed medical forms to UPS on May 15, 2003. In the submitted medical forms, my physician wrote that I should perform light duty work for thirty (30) days and then would be relased to work full duty contingent upon my physical improvement.  III. I received no communication from UPS regarding my Request for the next thirty-eight (38) days. On June 23, 2003, I received a voice-mail message from David Holzknecht regarding my request. Mr. Holzknecht stated that the UPS Cincinnati committee considering my request had reached a recommendation which was being forwarded to the UPS Chicago office for acceptance.	and EEOC					
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IV. I believe UPS has delayed the process of responding to my request in a continuing act of retaliation for my filing EEOC charges of gender and disability discrimination.						

EXHIBIT

C

🛛 I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State of local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or telephone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge In accordance with their procedures.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date

Charging Party (signature)

NOTARY - (when necessary for State and Local Requirements)

I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief,

SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT

7-7-03

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE

(Month, day and year)

lunaway Audrey E. Dunaway in and for the State of Ohio My Commission Expires April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

\*≥JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a)	PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDAN	TS		
	Teresa L. Watts				United Parcel S		e antigen is an	
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Hamilton (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)					County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Hamilton (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.			
(c)	Sirkin, Pinales, Mezil	ower, 105 West Fourth St.	lumber)		Attorneys (If K.n	own)		
II. B	ASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)			PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
וםו	J.S. Government Plaintiff	図 3 Federal Question (U.S. Governm	ent Not a Party)	•		TF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated or 0 f Business In		
□ 2 l	J.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citize in Item III)	nship of Parties	Citizer	of Another State		d Principal Place □ 5 □ 5 a Another State	
		,			or Subject of a Dign Country	3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
<u>IV. N</u>	VATURE OF SUI		RTS	FORE	EITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
□ 1201 □ 1301 □ 1401 □ 1501 □ 1501 □ 1501 □ 1501 □ 1501 □ 1501 □ 1501 □ 1905 □ 1905 □ 1905 □ 1905 □ 2400 □ 2400 □ 245	Insurance Marine Miller Act Negotiable Instrument Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment Medicare Act Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits Stockholders' Suits Other Contract Contract Product Liability EAL PROPERTY Land Condemnation Foreclosure Rent Lease & Ejectment Torts to Land Tort Product Liability All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS  441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 440 Other Civil Rights	PERSONAL INJUR  362 Personal Injury— Med. Malpractice 365 Personal Injury— Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIE  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habcas Corpus: 530 General 531 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition		0 Agriculture 0 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Health 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HJA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DJWC/DJWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ □ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge □ 12 USC 3410 □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of □ Information Act □ 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes □ 890 Other Statutory Actions	
n I	Original	ate Court A	temanded from □	Reope	anothe ated or □ 5 (speci ned	erred from or district  Ty)		
VI. (	CAUSE OF ACTI	ON (Cite the U.S. Civil State Do not cite jurisdiction 2 (Title VII of Civil Rights	nte under which you are filing al statutes unless diversity.) Act of 1964); 42 USC	)				
1	REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.I	S IS A CLASS ACTIO 2. 23	N DE	MANDS	JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: : MarYes □ No	
VIII.	RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE	$\angle$	<i>!                                    </i>	DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE	8/20/03		SIGNATURE OF AT	ORNEY OF	RECORD			
FORO	FFICE USE ONLY	and the second s						
RECE	EIPT# A	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE	